



THE BABBLER

October 2003



In The



Masters' Pocket

It is generally customary for an elected official to give a report after their first 100 days... while technically we are closer to 130 +, we thought it might be good to offer some reflection on our progress and outline some work that is yet to be done with the New LLH.

When Jennifer and I accepted the honorable position(s) of joint-Master, we immediately created five key goals to which we would drive our efforts throughout the year. Our priorities were as follows (1) hire a huntsman, (2) work with the pack on manageability and bidability, (3) create good sport, enhance our community and have more fun, and (4) increase our membership.

In general, we feel pretty good about our progress. Lennie Williams (just recently wed) as our apprentice huntsman has done a good job working with the pack on their manageability. Never was there a more proud moment than at opening meet when the hounds sat quietly at her side as the membership and the hounds received their blessing. It was a fitting tribute to all the



*Master of the Stinky,
Junior Lehman*

work that has occurred since we culled the pack in the spring. We have done a lot of work roading the hounds and her voice control has increased tremendously. We are still working with specific hounds (they shall remain nameless) that haven't yet adjusted to the new program and some may be offered as house pets in the immediate future should they not decide to cooperate. We believe we have created a healthy, relaxed environment in which the hounds can work. You may notice that the whipper-ins are using guns to stop hounds when appropriate, and we wanted to assure you that we are not shooting the hounds but rather shooting in the air. The sound of the gun is much greater than our ability to crack a whip that could be heard at a distance and so like many other hunts, we have invested in some new tools of the trade.

Much work has gone on behind the scenes with our drag laying team. In fact, I would venture to say that Junior Lehman, Ellie Crosby and Nancy Bizanno have become quite the experts on a variety of types of scent over the last few months. I am told they have also met some very interesting people in their pursuit of "the perfect scent". They have also worked on perfecting the art of laying the drag and have tried a variety of

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different formats. They have been very successful in creating a more realistic line which has enabled us a slower speed and greater viewing for the field. We truly have awesome "foxes" that are becoming more cunning with each hunt.

We are thrilled to announce that we added 7 new members and are pleased to welcome the following to the LLH: Brianna Cedar, Carol Brooks, Rachel Erickson, Heather Oetjen, Carmen

(Continued on page 4)



Foxhunting

Abroad

By Steve Hanges, *Babbler* "Foreign Correspondent"

When we think of foxhunting in Britain, we think of a traditional and almost timeless sport that will forever be a symbol of England. But in the past three years, animal welfare groups have stepped up efforts to ban foxhunting in the UK. Their lobbying has led the Labor government to attempt to stop all foxhunting in England. In the *Babbler's* 'Foxhunting Abroad' column, I will bring you up to date on the latest news on the foxhunting front. In this issue, I'll focus on England and highlight other countries in subsequent issues.

Attempts to ban foxhunting in England began in earnest in 1947 with the introduction of two bills in Parliament. Neither bill survived to become law and other unsuccessful attempts have been made since then, with a more intense campaign beginning in the 1990's. Then in July 1999 Prime Minister Tony Blair made a surprise announcement that he intended to make foxhunting illegal during his tenure as PM. Hunt supporters charged that Blair's plans were intended to repay campaign contributors; Blair's government denied those charges.

In late 1999 Home Secretary Jack Straw initiated an inquiry, led by Lord Burns, into the effects of a foxhunting ban on the rural economy. The Burns inquiry reported that between 6,000 and 8,000 jobs would be lost if hunting were banned. This is half the number suggested by some pro-hunt groups. Currently, foxhunting has been banned completely in Scotland, leaving many hunt community members there jobless. The report also found no conclusive evidence that foxes suffer physical pain when pursued, but does accept that they do not die immediately. Foxhunting supporters in England say that a complete ban on foxhunting in that country will also lead to an increase in the population of foxes that prey on domestic and farm animals.

After the temporary suspension of hunting because of foot-and-mouth disease in 2001, the House of Commons passed a law banning hunting, but that bill met defeat in the House of Lords. Several attempts were made to revive a bill banning foxhunting and in 2002, Parliament was asked to choose among three options: a complete ban, the preserva-

tion of the status quo, and the compromise of licensed fox hunting. The Commons opted for a complete ban, while the Lords chose the compromise "Middle Way" option. A month later Rural Affairs Minister Alun Michael unveiled the Hunting Bill, which would have allowed fox hunting to continue under a strict system of licensing but would outlaw hare coursing and stag hunting. Parliamentary infighting, however, led to the introduction of a new Labor bill proposing a complete ban, with few exemptions, by 2005.

The bill banning fox hunting in England has been delayed because the pro-hunting majority of Lords were expected to vote against it. If the bill is not brought up for a Lords vote, it dies and an identical bill will have to be introduced in the next session of Parliament, starting in November 2003.

If the Lords again block the bill, the Speaker of the House of Commons can then decide to push the measure through by using a rarely employed tactic known as the Parliament Act. This act restricts the ability of the Lords to block certain legislation. There is considerable controversy about whether it's appropriate to use the Parliament Act in these circumstances.

One other important factor is that the entire issue will return to square one if there is a general election before the bill becomes law. The next election could be called at any time, but is widely expected to be held in Spring 2005.

Stay tuned for reports in the next LLH *Babbler*.

Web sites for further information:

BBC <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>
Campaign for Hunting
<http://www.countryside-alliance.org/cfh/>
Masters of Foxhounds Association (UK)
<http://www.mfha.co.uk/>



MAX VON BLUECHER AWARDED LONG LAKE HOUNDS COLORS

By Jeanne Ahrenholz

On Wednesday, August 27th, a Junior Hunt was held at Fortuna Farm in Long Lake. Hounds were biddable and fast with several good runs. Fortuna Farm was a popular fixture in years gone by, though we have not met there for many years. Fortuna Farm was also one of the first locations in Minnesota to offer recognized Dressage and Combined Training shows.

Several special Junior Hunts are held each season to introduce young riders to the sport. At these hunts young nonmembers are welcome as guests of the hunt and special care is taken to guide them and educate them about hounds and hunting. At this hunt there were 34 riders in attendance, 14 of them juniors.

Following the hunt, at a hunt breakfast, a special presentation was made to 82-year-old Max von Bluecher, owner of Fortuna Farm. Though he is retired from operating the riding school, he still gives occasional lessons and does work on the grounds. Max and his wife Karin immigrated to the US from Germany after World War II and established Fortuna Farm 40 years ago. At the farm he introduced many riders, young and old, to the equestrian sports of dressage and jumping. Max was one of the original riders in the Long Lake Hounds and hunted during the 1960's. At this hunt he was presented with honorary "colors" of the Long Lake Hounds. Colors are awarded to hunt members who have proven themselves as skilled and competent riders and who have worked to support the organization.



(l to r) Max von Bluecher, Jennifer Schuck Joint Master of the LLH, Karen von Bluecher, and Bridgett Paradise Joint Master of the LLH
(Photo courtesy of Jeanne Ahrenholz)

Upon accepting his colors, Max spoke of the importance of encouraging and educating young riders, since they are the future of the sport. He announced that a new agreement had been made with Pony Clubs in the region and that Fortuna Farm will now be the Northern Lakes Riding Academy. In affiliation with the United States Pony Club it will encompass all Pony Clubs around the state and will be a learning center for horse management as well as riding. Competitions will be held there and the role of Pony Club will be expanded to also include adult riders.

Hunting Trivia

By Cindy Piper

Did you ever wonder why it is the custom to only use a contoured white pad under your saddle when formal hunting? The answer will make sense when you hear it.

Years ago the color white indicated signs of wealth. Anything white needed a "staff person" to wash it to keep it white. That often meant rubbing it on a washboard with lots of hot water. The reason for the contoured pad was to prevent any briars or burrs collecting on the pad and possibly working their

way under the saddle panels and either hurt a back or cause a bucking fit.

Therefore it has been the custom for one's hunting kit to have white contoured pads as saddle cloths. I learned it many years ago while hunting in Manakin-Sabot, VA (near Richmond) with Deep Run. The Fieldmaster asked me to ride in his pocket (a term used to define "Stay right with me and don't move!") and at a check he quietly sidled up to a rider and politely told the above story. The

errant rider had a navy dressage pad under his saddle. While his (the fieldmaster's) admonition was done in good taste, I watched the rider's face turn white and he apologized profusely. I bet that rider never made that mistake again.

Hope this helps explain an "old hunting custom."

Stay tuned for the next HUNTING TRIVIA on why professional huntsmen/ women carry a white whip.



Do you remember seeing the following at the Annual Meeting? Not too many of you were brave enough to hand it in. One who did (and who did a pretty good job with her answers) was our youngest member of the Long Lake Hounds – Rachael Stene. Congratulations, Rachael! You are our smartest fox!!



For the rest of you, please look over the answers to each of these questions so that next year we can prove that with age comes wisdom...

CAN YOU OUTFOX THE PONY CLUBBERS?

By Anne Donahoe

The following are examples of questions the Pony Clubbers are asked about foxhunting. Are you game to see how much you know?

1. What is the term used to say the fox or the hounds have left the covert?
2. What is the foxhunting term for a fox's tail?
3. What does it mean to receive the button of a hunt?
4. The huntsman has stated he has 14 couple with him today. What does he mean?
5. Define "MFH".
6. What is a "cub"?
7. When a fox returns to covert after having left it, it is said to
8. The hounds are running heel. What is the problem?
9. The fieldmaster calls out to you to "Hold hard." What does she want you to do?
10. Name the three parts of a hunting whip.
11. You visit the kennel and the MFH offers to show you this year's entry. What is she referring to?
12. You are wearing informal hunting attire while cubbing. What is this called?
13. If the hounds have run riot, what has happened?
14. In foxhunting, what two groups of people make up the "staff"?
15. What is the tail of the hound called?
16. What would you say to other riders to caution them about a hazard on the trail such as a hole?
17. If you need to leave the hunt before it is over, what should you do?
18. What should you do if you hear "Ware staff"?
19. Should you talk to a Whipper-In?
20. What should you do at the end of a hunt?

How well do you think you did?

Check out your answers on page 6!

(Go ahead, no one is watching!)

(Continued from page 1)

Gardiner, Jim Koktavy and Jamie Horner. The Donahoes have a 3rd-generation hunter that just began this season as well—welcome, Kelsey! We have also seen some old and familiar faces back out like Polly McCrea, Chuck Gehrman and Jeanne Ahrenholz. I think we are meeting our "fun" objective as we have had great times at the The Polo Classic, our Alpine Larking events, our Breakfast at Fortuna for the Junior meet and of course, opening meet at Kitty and David Crosby's. Good fun, good friends, good times!

While all sounds pretty good, we still have lots of things that we are working on... we need to continue to work with the hounds to ensure that we have greater voice control and continue to explore additional drag laying techniques. We must make a greater investment in our landowner relations so that we generate more "Friends of the LLH." As members, I would ask you to ensure that we are always good guests by avoiding crops, closing gates and being respectful at all times. In addition, we should all look for opportunities to show our appreciation to those that truly enable us to enjoy our sport. A simple and even random "thank you" can go a long way in helping us keep positive relations. Jennifer and I will be making a greater investment of time in meeting with landowners over the next few months and would really appreciate your support in creating goodwill with this important group. We would love to recruit more members and would ask you all to think of people that you might like to bring out to try us out.

We wanted to extend our thanks to the membership for your tremendous patience during this learning period for all of us. Your enthusiasm for the hunt and your love of the sport has been tremendous. As always, communication is key and if there is feedback, comments, thoughts, please know that we are very open and receptive to all. Thank you for allowing us this opportunity and good hunting.

Bridgett Paradise and Jennifer Schuck



High All Morning

By Karin Winegar

A wide, green gold field on a fall morning: riders massed on the rolling meadow like a painting come alive with smell, sound, wind and sky. Tundra swans floating over a limpid autumn pond, geese nibbling on the golden, freshly shorn field. Opening meet was an indisputable blessing.

It was the first hunt for my friend Sarah. She doesn't own a horse, but she was willing to try the hunt, and so we made it happen. I loaned her an extra hunt cap, gloves, shirt and stock tie, she dug out her high school hunt coat, bought some breeches and made do with half chaps and paddock boots. And Sue Slocum loaned her the critical ingredient: a fit, well trained, pretty darn safe small hunter in the form of Josie aka Empress Josephine.

At about the second check I rode back to second field to see how Sarah had survived. She had THAT LIGHT in her eyes, the one that says "Ah, I see! I am in the right



Reverend Leonard Freeman Blessing the St. Hubert medals, along with Peggy Steiner.

place. And I am so grateful to at last have done this!"

"Oh my gosh this is so much fun!" she cried. "It's a blast. I'd love to do it again."

As much as ensuring we have hunt country, the survival of our sport hangs on making our hunt accessible and welcoming. And we do that, whether getting folks who have horse, trailer, tack and wardrobe to the hunt or loaning them components so that they can try a hunt. And we know what happens when once you hunt: you are hooked. "A narcotic" is how one east coast fox-hunter described our sport. I agree but prefer Robert Surtees Smith's definition: "hunting is all the fun of war but only 25 percent of the danger."

Because we help each other, with horses, with rides, with advice and support, it can happen. It happened for me five years ago, and I have never been the same since. Martha McPhee loaned me a horse—Lucky—and a hunt coat—her daughter's—for my first hunt. Jo Bolte rode beside me and taught me protocol. Collette Morgan (of Wild Rumpus Bookstore) still loans me her truck and trailer, Betsy Phillips (a new horse owner and tallyho wagoner for opening meet) ditto. Joan Stene kindly offers a good mount when she has

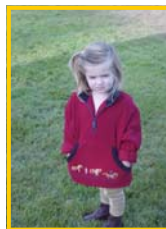


Blessing of the Hounds, September 1, 2003

one free.

But back to Sarah, who wolfed down hunt breakfast and told me: "I can't believe how generous everybody was, and somebody let me ride their horse and people were very welcoming and friendly, they introduced themselves. The woman who led the second field (Cindy Piper) was great, she told us what to do but didn't yell. It's a thrill to ride with 45 other horses and across terrain normally not open to you. In a good sense, it's like a glorified trail ride, but you are all dressed up and excited, and that makes it more special. And hearing the horns and hounds and seeing them run ahead and riders in red coats, it was so cool. I felt 'I can't believe I'm here,' and it was so great, I was high all morning."

And here's to making more such mornings possible for more appreciative riders.



Master's Cub at Blessing

Did you know...?

Some hunts are now requesting that all riders carry a brief medical ID history in the pocket of their hunt coat. Event riders are required to wear one on their arm. Do NOT attach it to your horse – if you take a tumble, usually your horse will not wait around to give the helping hands your medical information! In particular, anyone with any kind of medical problem that needs to be known should they become unconscious or unable to help themselves should consider wearing one. The medical arm bands that event riders wear are available at local tack shops (Equestrian Paradise – 952-473-0546); online (www.eqinesource.com); from National PC bookstore (by phone 859-254-7669, email: bookstore@ponyclub.org) or from USEA (by mail, (check/credit), fax (credit only) or phone (credit) 703.779.0440)

IT'S A BRIGHT IDEA!



Live Hunts Other Venues

The Moingonya Hunt—Opening meet was 9/20. Regular hunts on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The joint meet scheduled for 11/8 between Moingonya and Cornwall has been cancelled. There is an Invitational Hunt scheduled for the weekend of 10/11.

The North Hills Hunt has a 3-day weekend planned for the weekend of 10/11 also. The first junior hunt for North Hills is 11/30. Wabash's Opening meet is Sunday, 11/16. Wabash hunts on Thursdays and Saturdays. If anyone is interested in venturing south to hunt in Iowa or Nebraska, please contact Sue or Marcia for more information.

Sue Slocum (952 240-3721)
susan.slocum@childrenshc.org
 Marcia Brown (612 332-0676)
MBrown2626@aol.com

Fall 2003 Firearms Deer Season

The following are zones and dates that affect our hunt country:

Zone 3A — November 8-14
 Zone 3B — November 22-30
 Zone 4 (west of the Crow River) --- November 8—18th.

Questions: Call or email Junior Lehman
jrsworld@citlink.net

Viewpoint on landowner relations...

a thoughtful response to a question posed on Foxhunters@topica.com... (thanks, Steve Hanges for sending on the original debate and former LLH Joint Master Eric Canton for his response...)

As a veteran of the best and the worst in landowner relations, I support Mr. Sutton's point of view; although he is a little harsh on some masters. During my many years with the Long Lake Hounds in Minnesota and now with the Santa Ynez Valley Hunt in Los Alamos, CA, I find the rules of the game are about the same: Establish an unswerving respect for the land and the landowner &/or tenant and his/her family, crops, and livestock. Make it clear that no liability for accidents will fall to the landowner.

(Continued on page 11)



The Exmoor stag hounds,
 photo courtesy Stenes

THE LONG LAKE HUNT HOTLINE

Are the LLH Hounds going out? Information available on inclement weather, location and times during walking, country keeping, cubbing and regular season. This is an unmonitored number so please do not leave messages.

(952) 472-2743

Answers to Outfox the Pony Clubbers (page 4)

1. "Gone away"
2. Brush
3. To be given the right to wear the hunt buttons and colors.
4. For convenience in counting, hounds are counted in twos. 14 couple would be 28 hounds.
5. The Master of Fox Hounds. The person in charge of the hunt in the field and kennels.
6. A young fox
7. Double back
8. Hounds are following the line the wrong way, or backwards.
9. "Stop please."
10. Crop, thong, and lash
11. A hound is "entered" when he is first regularly used for hunting. "This year's entry" are the hounds entered or to be entered this season.
12. Ratcatcher
13. They are hunting something other than a fox.
14. The Huntsman and Whippers-In
15. Stern
16. "Ware hole." "Ware wire." "Ware..."
17. Request permission to do so of the Master, and thank her for the day's sport. At the same time, directions for your return home may be given so that you do not interfere with hunting.
18. Face hounds and Staff when they pass you from any direction, even if it means backing your horse off the trail and into the woods.
19. No — His full attention is needed on his job. Never get between a Whipper-In and the Huntsman on the road. Never ride beside a Whipper-In. He may have to turn quickly and unexpectedly. The Whippers In must also be given the right of way at all times.
20. Thank the Staff and the Masters for the day's sport and wish them "good night."



Conversations with Peggy Steiner ... a Foxhunter Remembers

How wonderful to see so many new faces as we begin our 44th season. Foxhunting can be quite addictive. Some of our members have been enjoying it for over 40 years. For our newer members and guests, it might be interesting to learn some background in how the Long Lake Hounds came to be.

Recently I had the privilege of listening to Peggy Steiner reminisce about the early days of our hunt. Mrs. Steiner was one of the early masters of the hunt, and her farm in Long Lake was one of the fixtures. The first thing she showed me was a mural in her home. It was a hunt scene, about 19' long by 8' high. It was painted for Mrs. Steiner

By Jo Simonton Bolte

by Betsy Poole, the third MFH of the hunt. Imagine a hunt scene of that size, with the riders and horses galloping across the wall, all members of the Long Lake Hounds. The first rider, jumping a coop in hot pursuit of the hounds, was John Daniels, the first MFH. Following was Martha Daniels, and then Stuart Wells, also a first master. Mrs. Steiner is painted riding her chestnut named Golden Gale. There were 26 horses in all. In a far corner Johnny Daniels, whipping in, fires his gun as a hound riots on a buck. The hound was never found. It's a truly remark-



Long Lake Hounds, early 1960's...

able painting.

But long before the LLH became a recognized hunt it had begun with a group of families and friends getting together in the Long Lake area to ride together on Sundays in the mid-40's. The camaraderie, good will and friendship among these riders and their

(Continued on page 8)

Don't Forget the Ringwork!

By Anne Donahoe

There is nothing worse in the hunting field than a horse you can't control. Manners are important in the field, not only for personal safety but also to ensure the safety of the rest of the riders. A horse should be quiet, attentive and well-schooled in the ring and in the field before he goes to his first hunt.

Basic schooling on the flat teaches horses to respond to a rider's aids and to pay attention. One of the most common problems is that hunters have no mouth and don't know how to steer and balance themselves. One exercise is to ride a circle while lengthening and shortening the horse's stride for four strides to make him more elastic and supple. Work on figure-eights and serpentines, instead of riding around a ring, to in-

crease responsiveness and suppleness.

Educating the horse to your aids is essential to make a horse fun to ride. If a horse is tense or disobedient, work at the walk followed by halts, making the horse stand, should teach him to pay attention. A sluggish horse should learn to lengthen his stride on command, and his transitions should be smooth and instantaneous. Trotting fences is also one of the most important things a foxhunter can learn. Many situations require that a horse trot through trappy footings instead of galloping through it. Setting up gymnastics can also help the horse and rider learn to adjust stride length, along with making the horse stronger and more careful over the jumps.

Make the halt part of everyday schooling. Teach the horse how to stand while setting jumps, talking to someone, or picking a crop up off the ground. The horse should stand attentively in these situations and when the rider is mounted. Backing up should also be second nature. Lateral movements such as turns on the forehand and leg-yielding will also improve your horse's strength and obedience.

And riders, don't forget your own balance and strength. Too many of us balance off our hands – especially when we are tired. Ride without stirrups. This will force you to find your own balance without depending on the saddle or bridle. Longe lessons can help you develop an independent seat even faster.



(Continued from page 7)

neighbors paved the way for the Long Lake Trails Association, organized by Stuart Wells, Lyman Wakefield and Leon Warner. It was their intent to promote an interest in cross-country riding not for just a few enthusiasts but for many. They wished the whole community to take part in this healthful recreation. Permission was first obtained from landowners to ride across their property and to install panels, gates and rail jumps inserted in their fence lines. Members met on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons to ride a 15-square-mile cross-country course. These rides included landowners and their families as well as the original enthusiasts. There were two groups, riders wearing hunt attire who followed the paneled courses, jumping the fences. For others wishing not to jump there were bridle trails and gates installed beside the jumps. Four-hour rides of 15 miles with 25 to 30 jumps were routine. Within a few years membership had grown to more than 300.

A favorite event in the fall was the Annual Hunter Trials, held at Locust Hills, home of the Charles Sweatts. There were 13 to 15 classes with the proceeds from the horse show going toward the upkeep of the trails. In 1951 the trials had to be moved to Leon Warner's farm in Long Lake. Grays Bay on Lake Minnetonka had overflowed onto the show ring at Locust Hills.

Catherine Piper Pierson, Kitty Crosby's mother, organized the first Farmers Picnic in 1947 to thank the landowners for allowing the group to ride

over their land. When she approached the banker in Long Lake for a loan to pay for the picnic he bet her \$3 she wouldn't get 30 people to attend. She won the bet. One hundred people showed up. The second Annual Picnic resulted in a full-page story with seven photographs in the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune.

When "Drool" joined the riders in 1954 things got more interesting. Stuart Wells brought his bloodhound, "Drool," to the meets in what apparently was the first drag hunt for the group. "Drool" followed a trail laid by a rider and was rewarded with a



John Daniels, the first MFH of the LLH

beef patty when he arrived at the end of the line. Soon afterward, John Daniels brought his bloodhound "Corpi" (short for Corpuscle) to the meets. Riding after these bloodhounds introduced the riders to exciting new elements of cross-country riding – the thrill of scenting and the chase.

Some of the members of this early group had experienced foxhunting with hunts in other parts of the country. And they thought, why not organize a hunt in Minnesota? After all, the essential ingredients were all there – beautiful countryside with excellent landowner rela-

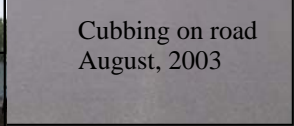
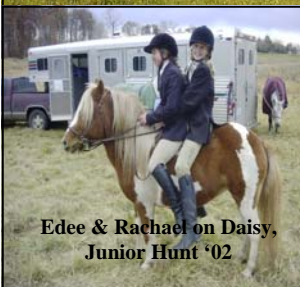
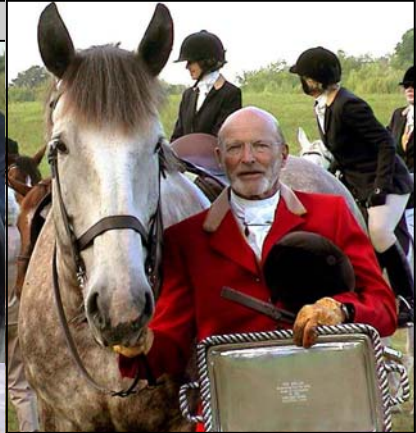
tionships. In 1957, John Daniels got a draft of 10 entered foxhounds from the Sewickley Hunt in Pennsylvania. Stuart Wells obtained a bred bitch from the Old Dominion Hunt in Virginia. And this beginning formed the nucleus of our pack today. In 1958, the group enjoyed their very first "real" drag hunt in Long Lake with a pack of foxhounds. Stuart Wells asked Mrs. Steiner to determine the lines for the drag, since she knew the country so well. Dick Cheska was the drag layer. The hunt was a great success. The riders loved it. Galloping across beautiful countryside – the hounds in full cry. It was most exhilarating. In 1959, the newly established hunt enjoyed their first regular season, 12 years after the Long Lake Trails Association was formed. The Long Lake Hounds became a recognized hunt in 1960.

Early hunt country included land as far east as Mooney Lake, south to Long Lake (Mrs. Steiner remembers hunting on the north side of the lake), north nearly to highway 55 and west to Baker Park. Expanding west a large parcel of Jim Binger's land was added, including the polo field in Maple Plain. The Clarence Dressel farm in Independence became the first landowner hunt fixture west of the Long Lake country.

We are indeed fortunate to enjoy our sport today in our beautiful countryside. Our country includes Medina, Independence and Minnetrista in Hennepin County, Wattertown in Carver County and Franklin Township in Wright County. We owe so much of our good fortune to the foresight and hard work of the early members and organizers of the Long Lake Trails Association.



Don't peek at this until you have read the whole newsletter! The answer is the photo on the right is the correct one — we are looking at Brave-heart's left or near side.



Ted Kuller (left) former LLH Chairman and Eric Canton, former LLH Joint Master hunting with the Santa Ynez Valley Hunt, Los Alamos, CA. Ted says it's like hunting in Exmoor without the rain. Eric has just been awarded colours at SYVH and co-chaired the Western States Hound Show in May 2003. (Photo courtesy of Eric Canton)



COUNTRY KEEPING REPORT

By Nancy Bizzano

A country keeper's work is never done and there are several folks out there (you can spot them with blistered hands and dulled mower blades) who have worked for hours getting our trails in shape.

Linda Ledray has taken over the large Independence country. Little did she know! Chuck Gehrman,

who knows that country and its cast of characters as well as anyone, has

mowed and sawed, teaching Linda



Recent country keeping crew opening up new country west of the kennels... (from l to r) Nancy, Jim, Dave, Jamie, Nancy, Rachael, Erica—not pictured, Joanie

as they move along. Former member Sara Bratnober left the country and its written records in great shape. She spent several hours with us – sharing her knowledge. We hope to have a new look to at least one line before year's end.

Ted Kuller has also been hither and yon with his tractor and mower. He has gone

out with several crews and his trails are impeccable. The best part of working with Ted is the trip to the Dairy Queen at day's end.

Kitty Crosby opened new country to the west of her home. It was used for the opening meet and was wonderful!

Ellie Crosby's country is in good shape – land with wonderful memories and new ones being made every hunt.

Thankfully the Polo Field is maintained by its owners – and is a fun day in spite of the many Bambies who share the woods with us.

Three major tasks remain. The West Country, if we open it, needs at least one day and virtually all of our members. That day will be scheduled shortly and you will receive an assignment by email. Everyone will be needed.

We continue to try to reclaim old country near the existing kennels. A large chunk will need work – again, probably an entire day with heavy machinery and our talented road crews will be needed. We will let you know time and place.

Remember a hunt needs land and plenty of it. Land needs work – hard work by each member. We are feeling our way this year and are thankful for the efforts of each of you.



Nancy Bizzano and landowner, Paul Moe, opening "new" old country—wow, what country!



Local Equestrian Leads U.S. Team to Victory in Australia

The United States Equestrian Team recently returned from Melbourne, Australia, following a win at The Nation's Cup International Show Jumping Competition, the first U.S. win since 1973.

Caitlin Mae Kirkman, 18, of Orono led the team of five U.S. junior equestrians to victory. Kirkman had three clear show jumping rounds in the competition at Wodonga, Victoria. The U.S. team finished with 8 penalty points; Australia placed second with 16 penalty points and Japan was third, with 21 penalty points.

Rider selection for the U.S. team was based on national United States Pony Club ratings of "B" level in horsemanship and horse management, ambassadorship and success in the equestrian disciplines of show jumping, dressage and eventing.

In addition to the Nation's Cup, riders competed as International mixed teams in The Kangaroo Cup at Werribee International Eventing Park in dressage, cross country and stadium jumping. Kirkman, riding

Hackett Man, had the high point dressage score and a clear cross country round. The course, used by the Australian Olympic team, was extremely challenging with technical obstacles as well as Grade "B" heights [comparable to Training/Preliminary].

"At Werribee, we rode through a giraffe pasture of the neighboring wildlife park," said Kirkman.

Eventing competitors included Japanese, New Zealand, Canadian and Australian riders. Matt Norman of New Zealand added excitement to the cross country phase when he and his horse took a digger and splash in the water complex. Undaunted, he mounted up in the water and still made time with a crowd cheering him on.

Kirkman, a member of Lead Hound Pony Club, Northern Lakes Region and CSDEA, prepared for the Australian competition with assistance in Minnesota from show jumping legend Hans Senn, dressage silver medalist Martina Chapman and master horseman and international judge Max von Bluecher.

(Continued from page 6)

It is also critical that the landowner get a sense (because the sentiment is real) that the members of the hunt and, particularly, the hunt representative at hand really enjoys the prospect of making new friends. I can count among many of my truly delightful moments the discovery that a landowner has been a fine business person, a wood carver, a breeder of miniature doberman pincers, an avid four-wheeler, a bird or deer hunter, a local politician, an artist, and the list goes on. Every encounter I ever had quickly destroyed any preconceived stereotype of the rural landowner I ever had.

Over my quarter century of involvement in landowner relations, I was humbled time and again and grateful for the friends I made. One time I responded to a knock on my door to find a landowner who had been suspicious and grumpy during our first meeting. He came to say how much he and his wife had grown to look forward to our coming through, and he gave Karen and me some of his small wood carvings in appreciation!

Several of us carried cards with landline and cell phone so as to be informed promptly of any issues from wayward hounds to downed fences or crop damage. We often got calls to change courses or whole countries if weather or livestock problems occurred. We were accessible!

Rich man, poor man - it matters not. It is the LAND MAN with whom we must share a mutual respect for the land - the land that is the foundation of enduring PERSONAL relationships between the PEOPLE in our hunts and the PEOPLE on the land. You've got to love it.



- Eric Canton

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THE LONG LAKE HUNT 2003 Calendar of

October 18	Guest Day
October 25	Masters' Pace (Tentative)
November 22	Final Hunt of the Season Colors Party and Last Supper
February 14	Hunt Ball Wayzata Country Club

Babblers emblem artwork donated by Marcia P. Brown
THANK YOU!

Note changes in the calendar!

Can YOU tell?



Just which side of Braveheart are we really looking at?

(Answer on page 8)

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